



**EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS OF PARASITOLOGY**

**October 10-14, 1994
İzmir-TURKEY**

ABSTRACTS VOLUME - II

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1994

Turkish Society for Parasitology

Po 1 TAXONOMY AND LIFE CYCLES OF HELMINT

Po1.01(722)

PARASITOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON
THE LOCATION IN PERIDONTAL SPACES OF
GASTEROPHILUS INTESTINALIS AND GASTEROPHILUS
NASALIS FIRST INSTAR LARVAE IN HORSES IN UMBRIA

* Principato M., **Camerlengo L.

*Institute of Parasitology, Fac. of Veterinary Medicine, via
S. Costanzo 4,06100 Perugia, Italy. ** Veterinary surgeon.

The oral phase of gasterophilosis in horses can be clinically easily observed. When the small first instar larvae penetrate into the animal's oral mucosa, the first acute and delicate phase of the disease is at the beginning. The subject of this report is the less studied location in peridontal spaces of Gasterophilus intestinalis and Gasterophilus nasalis first instar larvae, and a rare photographic documentation obtained during a several years' survey on horse gasterophilosis is herein offered. Out of 48 horses resulted positive as for oral Gasterophilosis, 44 had only first instar G. intestinalis larvae located between teeth and 4 of them showed also first instar G. nasalis larvae in that place. The G. intestinalis larvae, reddish and from 1/2 cm to more than 1 cm variably long, were always present in the upper and lower mandibular teeth. Generally the greater number of larvae (40-45) was observed on the upper part of the mandibular area, in deep pus pockets between teeth from which only parasites' postabdominal stigmata were visible. On the contrary, first instar G. nasalis larvae, whitish, furry and 3-4 mm long, seemed to locate themselves in number of 5-6 specimens on the border of the teeth collar, sometimes at the end of a burrow, inside the gum mucosa. This phase, lasting a few days, represents a necessary break for larvae of both species to grow and to carry out their oral migration before they reach their specific site in the animal's stomach or duodenum.